



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel
March 17, 2016
Summary Meeting Minutes**

NOTE: The meeting video is posted at route29solutions.org.

Meeting 40 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia on March 17, 2016. Meeting information included:

- Meeting Agenda
- Presentation addressing agenda items

All material distributed at the meeting is available at route29solutions.org

1. In attendance: Pete Borches, Morgan Butler, Mark Graham, Kristin Szakos, Chris Engel, Karen Weiner. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Chip Boyles, Brad Sheffield, Henry Weinschenk.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Three comments were submitted via e-mail and phone calls that were project related, and two new comments were made on the Provide Input section of route29solutions.org. There were also about a dozen calls and e-mails related to the CenturyLink outage. No calls were made to the project hotline. A summary of comments is included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website route29solutions.org.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback. Details are included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website route29solutions.org.

- Left turn storage will be extended 50 feet at Woodbrook and 75 feet at Twentyninth Place.
- Pedestrian lights are being extended equal distances on each side of Rt. 29 both north and south of the Rio intersection.

- During the restricted period, Rio westbound to Route 29 northbound will be free-flowing except when a pedestrian activates the signal to cross Rio east. When the pedestrian signal is activated, the traffic signal will turn red.
- Overhead signs for Rio are already in production.
- A ground mounted sign at Rio GSI directing Route 29 southbound traffic to Rio eastbound will say “Downtown” to direct Charlottesville traffic to Rio Road East.
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- Crash data update:
 - New November statistics — 13 in 2014 and 5 in 2015 (rather than 11 in 2014 and 2 in 2015)
 - December statistics — 19 in 2014 and 11 in 2015
 - One December 2015 crash was in an active work zone.

4. Panel Feedback/Open Discussion

- Pete Borches noted there were about 180 people in attendance at the *Let's Connect Chamber of Commerce* event at Colonial Nissan on March 15. The 29+Rio marketing plan was introduced at the event.
- Two TV spots have been developed thus far featuring two Rio area businesses.
- Pete Borches noted there still are opportunities for small businesses to be featured in those ads at no cost to the business. The goal is to have two from each of the four quadrants. Interested businesses should contact Lou Hatter at VDOT or Lee Catlin at the County.
- Lou Hatter drew PDAP members' attention to posters displayed in the room portraying the door hangers and print versions of the video ads.
- Philip Shucet shared copies of the get-around map with PDAP members. He noted VDOT paid for the maps and the business assistance subcommittee is funding the business assistance media campaign.
- Lou Hatter will provide an update on VDOT's media campaign at the March 31 PDAP meeting.
- Karen Weiner said that heading east on Rio Road, the natural inclination is to stop for the traffic light past where the stop bar is now located, potentially posing a dangerous situation. Dave Covington will investigate and will consider painting a wider stop bar or putting up a “Stop here on red” sign similar to the one in the turn lane from Rio Road West to Rt. 29 SB.

5. Construction Milestones: Graphic is included in presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

6. Route 29 Solutions Project Updates: Dave Covington reviewed project updates. Updates with photographs are included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

Bullets below reflect additional information and discussion other than that included in the presentation.

- Route 29/250 Interchange:
 - Mark Graham asked when the Barracks Road ramp will return to normal. Dave Covington said he was expecting that stop sign would be removed today or tomorrow. (Before the end of the meeting, Dave was advised that the Stop sign was removed.)
 - The intent is to use one subcontractor for the wall staining at both this project and the Rio GSI so they have a consistent look.

- Rio GSI
 - The first bridge beam may be set on May 25. It's the highest risk item which is why the contractor wants to place beams first. Excavation on the sides comes next.
 - Mark Graham expressed delight at the date and asked for more information on the construction sequence.
 - Chris Engel asked where will the excavated dirt be hauled. Dave Covington indicated all the excavated dirt will be used on the Route 29 projects, specifically noting the north side of Berkmar and Route 29 widening.

- Berkmar
 - The bridge may be completed before the end of December 2016, which would be ahead of schedule.
 - Traffic on Rio Mills Road has increased from drivers viewing the Berkmar construction.
 - Kristin Szakos asked about landscaping the cleared areas. Dave Covington noted landscaping is included in the project and details will be shared with PDAP at a future meeting.

- Signal Updates
 - Wrapping up design now; work starts in April.

- Hillsdale Extension - Hal Jones provided update.
 - Early start on utility relocations, which was set to begin in April.

7. Budget Review and Update: A budget update is included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

- Bulk of anticipated change orders for the design-build contract are for architecture, lighting and landscaping enhancements.

8. CenturyLink Outage; Cause and Corrective Action.

- Lane-Corman severed major communications and fiber cables in the early hours of March 7 resulting in widespread communications and internet outages. Service was restored mid-morning March 8. Lane-Corman determined that workers mistakenly believed the lines were inactive. Lane-Corman implemented a new internal review and tri-party approval process for all excavation and issued a media release accepting accountability.
- It's not known how many customers were affected, but the outage stretched as far as the airport.

9. PDAP calendar July - December 2016: Calendar is included in the presentation posted on route29solutions.org.

- PDAP will continue to meet biweekly, with the exception of July when there will be a 3-week interval between meetings.
- One of the June meetings will be held onsite at the Rio GSI provided an appropriate meeting location can be arranged.

10. New Business and Wrap Up

- Pete Borches expressed concern that the volume of traffic that likely will come from Rio onto Route 29 and want to make a U-turn at the Myers Drive temporary u-turn during the restricted period could pose concerns. He wants VDOT to be prepared to react as necessary.
- Morgan Butler suggested a "good news" release when the first bridge beam at Rio is set.
- Karen Weiner requested a detailed schedule of activity during the Rio restricted period.

The next panel meeting is March 31, 2016 at Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The meeting was open to the public, streamed live, and is available on video at route29solutions.org